

A close-up photograph of a dark shadow cast on a light-colored, irregularly shaped stone path. The shadow is of a person walking, with their right leg forward and arms slightly away from their body. The lighting is bright, creating a sharp, dark silhouette. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Walking In His
Shadow
1st Peter 2:9-10

Walking In His Shadow

- The meaning of a word is often defined by the culture we find ourselves to be a part of and can change over time
 - Bully - Used to mean "sweetheart" or a good friend, often used for both men and women
 - Nice - In the 14th century meant "foolish," "ignorant," or "finicky"
 - Awful - Originally meant "full of awe" or "inspiring wonder"

Walking In His Shadow

- So it should not surprise us that the word “holy” has changed
 - Merriam-Webster today defines holy as a “religious or morally good; exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness”
 - **Deuteronomy 7:6 NIV**, For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.
 - Does that mean that God saw these people as “morally good” or “perfect in righteousness”?

Walking In His Shadow

- So it should not surprise us that the word “holy” has changed
 - We also read in the Scriptures that there were a several objects in the Jewish Temple also described as “holy”
 - Does that mean that these objects were “morally good” or “perfect in righteousness”?

Walking In His Shadow

- Ancient biblical word “holy” means to be set apart for a specific purpose
 - There are times when aspects of moral righteousness or Godly devotion are used as an adjective pointing to what is “holy”
 - On its own, the term “holiness” does not refer to religious devotion or perfection
 - When the Bible calls something holy, it is not necessarily speaking of its purity or righteousness
 - Rather, it is something “set apart” from everything else in order to accomplish something specific

Walking In His Shadow

- Ancient biblical word “holy” means to be set apart for a specific purpose
 - Using this understanding there are some items in your house that are holy
 - Your toothbrush is only used for your teeth and (hopefully) not for anyone else’s mouth
 - It is especially not meant for cleaning of any other items
 - So, by definition, you have a “holy toothbrush”
 - There is nothing divine about your toothbrush, it’s just set apart for a unique purpose

Walking In His Shadow

- **Proverbs 31:25, 28-30 NIV**, 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
 - 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Walking In His Shadow

- **Exodus 19:6 NIV**, “you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”
 - There are many faults in this nation that does not live up to what God intended
 - But when the Scriptures called Israel a holy nation, it isn't suggesting that Israel is somehow sinless or divine
 - Instead, it points to the fact that Israel has been chosen
 - They have been set apart from all the other nations
 - And they were called for a specific purpose on the earth

Walking In His Shadow

- **1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV**, “15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
 - The same command announced about the Nation of Israel God is giving to His born-again children today
 - He is not commanding us to be morally perfect although we should be moving in that direction
 - He is saying he wants us to choose to be uniquely different from the world system and focused on the way He is

Walking In His Shadow

- **1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV**, “15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
 - The meaning of holy in this case points to the fact that we are not of this world
 - **John 17:14 NIV**, “I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”
 - **TLB**, “I have given them your commands. And the world hates them because they don’t fit in with it, just as I don’t.”

Walking In His Shadow

- **1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV**, “15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
 - Holiness is not about being absolutely perfect, but instead, it is about being separated from what is sinful
 - We cannot make ourselves perfect and blameless, but we can choose to be set apart for God
 - We can choose to be holy

Scripture

- **1st Peter 2:9-10 NIV**, 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Born-Again Children of God are a chosen people

- Israel was not chosen by God because of their moral superiority or the devotion to Him and His Word or even the size of their nation
 - **Deuteronomy 7:7-8 NIV**, 7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Born-Again Children of God are a chosen people

- Israel was chosen because of Abraham's faith in God and the covenant God made with him and his descendants
- We are chosen because of our faith in Jesus Christ and the covenant God the Father made through Him
 - **Luke 22:19-20 NIV**, 19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Born-Again Children of God are a chosen people

- This is the central theme of the New Testament, representing a new, eternal agreement where salvation is achieved through grace rather than law
 - **Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV**, 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Born-Again Children of God are a chosen people

- This is the central theme of the New Testament, representing a new, eternal agreement where salvation is achieved through grace rather than law
 - It fulfills Old Testament prophecies
 - **Jeremiah 31:31 NIV**, “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.”

Born-Again Children of God are a chosen people

- This is the central theme of the New Testament, representing a new, eternal agreement where salvation is achieved through grace rather than law
 - It fulfills Old Testament prophecies
 - **Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV**, 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Born-Again Children of God are a chosen people

- This is the central theme of the New Testament, representing a new, eternal agreement where salvation is achieved through grace rather than law
 - The New Covenant brings so much more than the forgiveness of sins
 - Internal transformation by the Holy Spirit
 - A renewed purpose in and calling for our life
 - And direct access to God

So, Our salvation does something more than bringing forgive for sin debt

- It allows us to once again walk in the newness of God's shadow
 - **Genesis 1:26 NIV**, Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness --- *Why or for what purpose?*
 - So that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So, Our salvation does something more than bringing forgive for sin debt

- Image in ancient Biblical Hebrew means – shadow
 - We were created to be holy, set aside from all other parts of creation, to *“walk in the shadow of God”*
 - We were created to reflect God’s behavior and character
- This is what was lost when sin entered the perfection of the Garden
 - Mankind did not lose their responsibility of ruling, but they lost the shadow of God to walk in

So, Our salvation does something more than bringing forgive for sin debt

- Mankind did not lose their responsibility of ruling, but they lost the shadow of God to walk in
 - **Genesis 3:9-10 NIV**, 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”
- God did not provide a way of salvation just so we could spend eternity with Him
 - He reestablished or resurrected our ability to walk in His shadow here and now

He redeemed our present life into “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession” kind of life

- Why?
 - “That you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”

He redeemed our present life into “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession” kind of life

- You have been chosen by God today to be blessed as a part of a group of believers who stand in the gap between a Holy, Righteous God and a sinful world
 - You are set apart for God’s purposes and uses
 - You are now a special possession of God forever
 - How?
 - **Vs.10**, “Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

He redeemed our present life into “a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession” kind of life

- You also provide a shadow as you walk through life
 - How you live your life is important because others are watching and coming after you
 - Once again, God is not calling us to moral perfection, but we should be trending in that direction
 - But to understand our place in this world as “God’s special possession”, is to walk in His shadow and as we provide shadows for others to walk in

Walking In His Shadow

- Someone said, “When a human being worships the God of Heaven and Earth it is as if he or she steps into the very shadow of God, becoming part of it, reflecting God’s perfection and beauty.”
- As Moses’ face glowed after spending time with God on the mountain, may our lives shine because our reason for living has been redeemed and we are now “Walking in His Shadow” of His greatness

A close-up photograph of a dark shadow cast on a light-colored, irregularly shaped stone pavement. The shadow is elongated and appears to be of a person walking, with a distinct head, torso, and limbs. The lighting is bright, creating a sharp contrast between the dark shadow and the light stone.

Walking In His
Shadow
1st Peter 2:9-10